

opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • April 2011

During an Avalanche of News, a Salute to Journalists

EVENT PREVIEW: APRIL 28

by Sonya K. Fry

The OPC has judged the awards, notified the winners and is now heavy duty into planning for the Annual Awards Dinner on Thursday, April 28th at the Mandarin Oriental hotel in New York City.

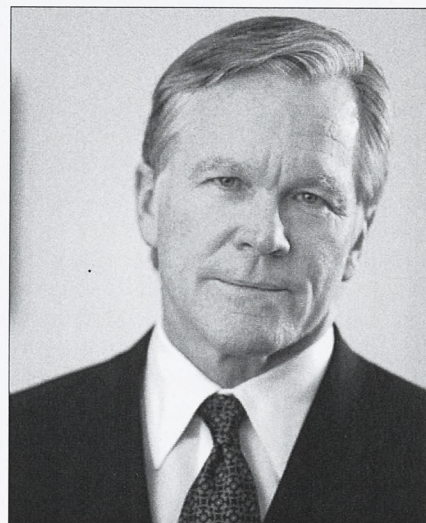
This late winter/early spring season has witnessed an incredible news cycle: earthquakes, tsunamis, radioactive fall-out, revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia, mass protests in Yemen, Bahrain and war in Libya have all contributed to great difficulties in finding judges, notifying winners, worrying about the capture of journalists and getting over-stretched news rooms to focus on awards. In the 16 years that I have been planning the OPC awards dinner, I never remember such an incredible amount of news.

This year, the OPC expanded its online entries. Five new Online Awards were added to the one that began in 2006: General excellence, best coverage of breaking news, best use of multimedia, best investigation of an international issue or event, best

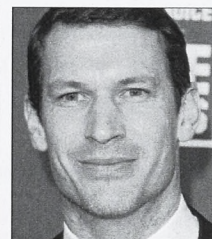
use of video and best commentary. The OPC received 470 award entries, compared to 446 in 2010. Thirty-five percent of all applications came online. This was the first year the Club offered applicants the opportunity to apply online. As a result of the record-number of applications, our judge base has expanded to more than 100 judges. That said, we pay tribute to the chair of the Judging Committee, Arlene Getz, OPC Third Vice President, for her work in organizing the work of the judges. Without judges who volunteer their time, energy and devotion to reading, listening, viewing, arguing and ultimately agreeing on a winner, there would be no OPC awards. We honor them, but are also gratified because so many of them tell us that it sharpens their skills as journalists and gives them an outlet to discuss the journalism issues of the day. In other words, they contribute to the OPC, but also get back invaluable assets.

Now to the awards dinner itself. **Bill Keller**, Executive Editor of *The New York Times* has agreed to accept the President's Award from David Andelman. Keller has had his hands full these days with four *New York Times* journalists captured in Libya and finally released by the Muammar el-Qaddafi regime to the Turkish ambassador after six days.

Lester Holt, the anchor of the NBC Nightly News Weekend Edition, will share the duties of presenting the awards with the photographer and filmmaker **Tim Hetherington**. Holt is recently back having covered the Japan earthquake and tsunami for NBC while Hetherington is in Libya for *Vanity Fair* having



Executive Editor of *The New York Times* Bill Keller will receive the evening's highest honor, the OPC President's Award.



Lester Holt, left, and Tim Hetherington will present the awards.



Mona Eltahawy will light the candle in honor of journalists killed in 2010.

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Awards Dinner Preview:

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hopped to Libya from Afghanistan with plans to be back in New York for the awards dinner.

Lighting the candle in honor of journalists who were killed during 2010 is **Mona Eltahawy**, an award winning columnist and an international public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues. She was born in Egypt and reported for many years on Middle East issues for Reuters. In 2009, the European Union awarded her its Samir Kassir Prize for Freedom of the Press. Norman Schorr, a strong supporter and chairman of the Freedom of the Press Committee, died March 25 (see page 11), was the person who instituted the idea of lighting a candle before each awards dinner. The flame flickers throughout the dinner reminding people of the enormous sacrifices journalists make in the pursuit of the story.

The reception, which will be held again in the beautiful 35th floor Lobby of the Mandarin Oriental, begins at 6 p.m. and is sponsored by Microsoft. The view from the floor to ceiling windows overlooking Columbus Circle and Central Park is spectacular. Dinner and the awards ceremony will be one flight up in the Ballroom.

As your Executive Director, I must tell you that the best part of the job is to notify award winners. They are excited and willing to come from the far corners of the world to accept their prestigious award in person. Please join us on Thursday, April 28 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in praising their work and sacrifices.

Dinner Tickets and Tables

Tables of 10 seats are sold as follows:

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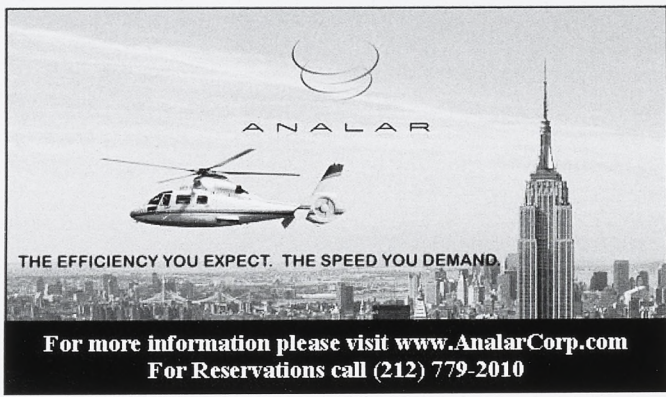
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OPC Bulletin

ISSN-0738-7202 Copyright
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40 West 45 Street, New York, NY 10036 USA • Phone: (212) 626-9220 • Fax: (212) 626-9210 • Website: opcofamerica.org

Holstein to Speak About New Book and the Asian Challenge

EVENT PREVIEW: MAY 17

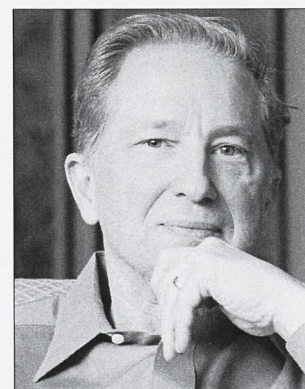
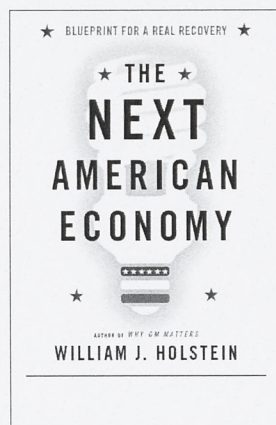
Former OPC President Bill Holstein will speak on his latest book, "The Next American Economy: Blueprint For a Real Recovery," at a book night on May 17 at Club Quarters. The event starts at 6 p.m. with a cocktail reception.

Holstein covered China's early modernization efforts in the late 1970s as a correspondent for United Press International and has been deeply involved in coverage of Japan and South Korea as well. China is now the world's second largest economy, followed closely by Japan.

In his book, Holstein argues that Americans as a whole have largely failed to launch a competitive response to the emergence of the Asian powerhouses, recently joined by India. Now that the financial bubble that propped up housing prices has popped, the United States has no choice but to finally come to grips with raising its technological level. The key is to harness the innovative ideas in America's universities and research institutes to create industries and jobs in the U.S., rather than allowing them to be siphoned to Asia.

"We have largely lost the power to persuade China or Japan to fundamentally alter their economic expansion strategies in the world," Holstein says. "We tried with Japan and eventually gave up. Now there is a debate about how to force China to raise the value of its currency, but that is just a pale imitation of the Japan debate. And it can't work."

The key to the American response must be in making America's key institutions — universities, governments, community colleges, large businesses and small businesses — function more cohesively in what Holstein calls a "smarter brand of American capitalism." He adds: "If we adapt our model, we can remain ahead of China's emergence. It is not pre-ordained that America gets blown away



William J. Holstein

in the Asian century."

In a review, the *Financial Times* described the book in these terms: "The heart of *The Next American Economy* is nine impressively thorough case studies of 'clusters' of successful U.S. businesses, mostly making innovative products such as new types of batteries and adhesives," the newspaper said. "A veteran reporter, Holstein expended a lot of shoe leather in his researches, from Massachusetts to California, and he does an excellent job of describing what he sees and letting his subjects speak for themselves."

The publisher is Bloomsbury/Walker. It is Holstein's fourth commercially available book and follows on the heels of *Why GM Matters: Inside The Race to Transform an American Icon*, which was published in 2009. Holstein's Book Night is **Tuesday, May 17**. Reception begins at 6 p.m. with the Talk at 6:30 p.m. RSVP by calling the OPC office 212-626-9220, e-mail sonya@opcofamerica.org or log into the website www.opcofamerica.org.

What Risks Are Worth Taking to Get the Story?

OPC ONLINE FORUM

The news that **Lara Logan**, CBS's chief foreign correspondent, had suffered a "sustained, brutal" sexual assault and beating in Cairo's Tahrir Square triggered a surge of commentary in the press, the social media and the blogosphere.

There's no question that women have earned their place on the front lines of journalism. But the Logan case and other brutalities in the recent uprisings across the Middle East and North Africa raise legitimate questions about what should be asked of journalists in perilous situations, and what they should ask of themselves. Of course no good reporter wants to become part of a story he or she is covering. Nevertheless, risk is inevitable in chasing many important stories.

The Wall Street Journal's **Daniel Pearl** knew he was taking chances in meeting the terrorists who killed him. He thought the story, if he got it, would be worth the risk. But no one thinks less of Western reporters in Iraq or Afghanistan who send local stringers to cover scenes where Western faces might provoke attack. Do you really add enough to the story

when you get down among the mob in Tahrir Square to justify the danger? Should you perhaps take a bye next time?

In response to this provocative question, board member **Jackie Albert-Simon** writes: Your question raises yet again the gender issue, which is mildly offensive to most of us. We know we don't need to fight 'la difference' every day, but are implicitly aware of the challenge... ." Freedom of the Press Committee Co-Chair **Larry Martz** writes: Women face sexual harassment on the job, and this is an added hazard. Men have been sodomized and sexually humiliated, too, and they know that's a risk, but it happens less often than to women. Nevertheless, both men and women accept that danger to get the story.

We'd like to know what OPC members think. Log onto www.opcofamerica.org to post your comments, then we'll sum up the results in a story. To log onto opcofamerica.org, your: username is first and last name (eg. John Doe), for password help, click "Reset Password" and enter the e-mail address you use to receive OPC e-mails. For further assistance logging in, e-mail aimee@opcofamerica.org.

A Call for Peace and Women's Empowerment in Middle East

EVENT RECAP: March 28

by Aimee Vitrak

A member of the audience during the conversation about women in media in the Middle East wanted to compare the government possibilities in Egypt to Yemen, but Nadia Al-Sakkaf, Editor-in-Chief of *The Yemen Times* stopped that comparison cold. "It's not fair," she said. "These are different countries entirely." Throughout the conversation on Monday, March 28 at Club Quarters, the resounding call from Al-Sakkaf and Felice Friedson of The Media Line Ltd., an American news agency specializing in coverage of the Middle East, was for those outside of the region to see each country as a distinct entity, not just a blanket "Middle East."

"What is understood by Americans and anyone outside of the region is a result of media providing that information," Friedson said. "Information is the core of public policy makers and is the key for democracy." She said that one of the oddities of being based in the Middle East is reading accounts of events that are written by someone who is thousands of miles away. "Yet they profess total confidence knowing more than those on the ground."

Friedson also talked about the phenomena of "pack reporting," when hundreds of journalists drop into a country for spot news. "They're all doing the same story, asking 'what did that translator say?' which again supplies an imperfect or incomplete idea that might be widely published with little room for correction, but bound to become conventional wisdom."

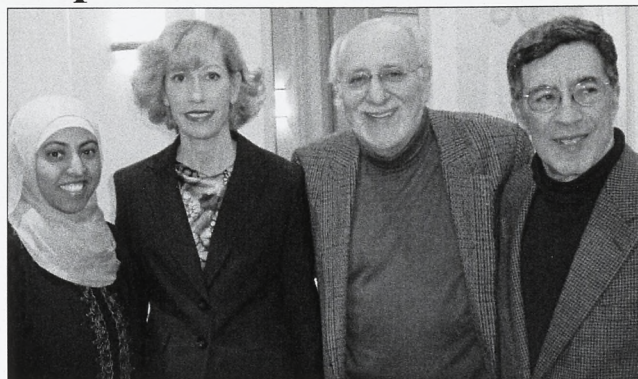
Friedson said it's important that asking legitimate questions, like "did we witness a military coup or popular revolution in Egypt?" is not an indictment of Egypt, nor is giving equal time to the Israel and Palestinian debate. "Advocates have an ax to grind, but journalists shouldn't," she said.

Friedson and Al-Sakkaf met over the internet six years ago and Media Line now supplies "content," as Friedson dubbed it, to Al-Sakkaf's paper, which is published in English.

The Yemen Times was started 20 years ago by Al-Sakkaf's father, she said he gave his life for freedom of the press. "When I took over in 2005, my staff, half of my male staff, didn't like it that they had a woman boss," she said. "Yemen is conservative and traditional. Many think that it's okay for women to be teachers or doctors but they shouldn't be journalists." She smiled and paused for emphasis to the largely female audience. "So with the power bestowed on me...I fired them." Al-Sakkaf estimated that there are about 500 women journalists in Yemen and many more who do not have press passes and said that half of her newsroom is comprised of women and several foreign reporters from countries like the U.S., Australia and Canada. "I was empowered because my family owns the paper," Al-Sakkaf said. "But it made me wonder what about all the other women who want to make change but their families don't own the paper?"

Al-Sakkaf asked for the U.S. to empower Yemenites by showing them how to build governmental institutions. "Don't define our future for us. Don't send your troops to die in Yemen," she said. "We will fight our own battle."

While women are able to run for elected office in Yemen, there is only one woman who occupies a seat in the current par-



Photos by Sonya K. Fry

Before the event, from left: Nadia Al-Sakkaf, Felice Friedson, Peter Yarrow and OPC President David Andelman.

liament that has 301 members. Al-Sakkaf would like to see this change and said she herself would run for a political position in Yemen if a new government is installed. She called the current instability with cries for the current president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, to cede power is at a standstill.

"The questions we get from him are: don't prosecute me or my family and don't ask me about the money collected for the past 32 years," Al-Sakkaf said, "and we have a problem with that."

In Yemen, the current unemployment rate hovers around 35% and almost half of the population is under 15 years of age. Al-Sakkaf said one of the most critical pieces of legislation for Yemen would be a law for a marriage age threshold. Currently, girls of any age can be married off, considered property of the father to bestow upon another man. One year ago reports of a 12-year-old Yemeni girl who died of internal bleeding following intercourse three days after she was married made international news. The year before that, another married 12-year-old died during childbirth that also killed her baby. Al-Sakkaf said the most powerful person in Yemen is the president and that "if he wanted to do something for women, he would have done it by now. Right now, he's let me be [at the newspaper], and I hope this continues," she said, with fingers crossed.

Al-Sakkaf and Friedson were asked how social media like Facebook could possibly play a role in the poorest country in the Middle East. "Only one computer is needed," Al-Sakkaf said. "We group together a lot and so word of mouth and SMS [text messaging] spreads to others quickly."

The evening began with music provided by Peter Yarrow, of the group Peter, Paul and Mary, who performed with his daughter Bethany and cellist Rufus Cappadocia. Yarrow is on the board of Media Line Ltd., which is located in Jerusalem.



Nadia Al-Sakkaf and Felice Friedson take audience questions.

For videos from the event, go to www.opcofamerica.org.



PEOPLE... with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER:

The OPC Foundation's Theo Wilson Scholarship in 2005, **Christina Hildreth**, is now serving in Mumbai, India with the International Justice Mission, a human rights organization that focuses on securing justice for the poor in 10 countries. She is the field office communications coordinator. She writes, designs and reports on the work the mission does to save women from sex trafficking. In her scholarship-winning essay, Christina wrote that if Americans knew more about the world outside their borders and understood the complexity of global issues, it would lead to "a more defined path by which to solve them. Accurate and powerful reporting is crucial if we aim to effect change."



Journalist Nedim Sener reacts as he leaves his house escorted by plainclothes policemen in Istanbul March 3.

ANKARA: Turkish police detained seven journalists March 3 in an investigation of an alleged plot in 2003 to overthrow the government. Two of the detainees, **Nedim Sener**, an author and investigative reporter for the daily *Milliyet* (Nationality), and **Ahmet Sik** were arrested on March 7 after testifying for more than 14 hours on their alleged involvement in the plot. Thousands of people in Ankara and Istanbul protested the detentions that they called repression of Turkish journalists. **Ercan Ipekci**, leader of the Turkish Journalist Syndicate, said, "Pressure on journalists has reached an intolerable limit." The International Press Institute named Seneger a World Press Freedom

Press Freedom Continue to Erode in China

Police briefly detained more than a dozen foreign correspondents and assaulted at least two reporters during a planned anti-government demonstration near Tiananmen Square on a Sunday in February. Then on a Sunday in March, about a dozen European and Japanese correspondents were detained for two hours in an underground bunker after they tried to cover a protest against the government. In Shanghai, at least 17 foreign correspondents in the People's Square were detained by police for about two hours because they had not obtained permission to work there. *The New York Times* reported from Beijing in March: "The intimidation of foreign journalists is a marked shift for the Chinese authorities and a sign of the government's resolve to head off any anti-government revolts like those that have swept the Middle East and North Africa during the past two months."



Foreign journalists were detained March 6 by Shanghai police officers near where Chinese had been anonymously urged to gather for a public revolt.

A Bloomberg correspondent was punched and kicked, and his video camera was confiscated. A journalist with Taiwan's Sanli TV station suffered a shoulder injury when he and a female colleague were thrown into a police van. Detained for a few hours in February were correspondents from Deutsche Presse-Agentur, Hong Kong broadcaster RTHK, German state broadcasters ZDF and ARD, BBC, CNN and Voice of America. After the trouble, Chinese police moved to prevent reporters and photographers from covering potential public protests by establishing "no reporting" zones in Shanghai and Beijing.

Stephen McDonnell, president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China and a correspondent for Australian Broadcasting Corporation, said in an e-mail message, "It's absolutely outrageous that in the middle of Beijing, the capital of China, a foreign reporter can be kicked and beaten in the face, and the authorities just blame the journalist, saying he was in breach of some regulations." **Bob Dietz**, Asia program coordinator for the Committee to Protect Journalists, said, "This is the worst aggression against the foreign press we've seen since the Olympics in 2008."

Hero for his book that blamed security forces for the 2007 murder of Turkish-Armenian journalist **Hrant Dink**.

BAKU, Azerbaijan: **Abbas Atilay**, a freelance photographer working for Radio Free Europe, was covering a March 11 demonstration demanding the release of jailed journalists and activists and the resignation of the Azerbaijan president when he fell down and was beaten by a police captain.

BRISBANE: When they returned to Australia from Asia in 2000, **Tony Paul**, a

former *Reader's Digest* correspondent in Asia, and his wife **Anne** moved into an eighth floor apartment bordering a river. Heavy rains in January forced authorities to release storage water from Wivenhoe Dam into the river, causing widespread flooding on property near the Paul apartment. Their apartment was untouched, but family and friends moved to safety their collection of artwork, books and wine stored in their basement garage that was flooded.

DAMASCUS: **Tal al-Mallouhi**, who

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was arrested in 2009 when she was a 19-year-old blogger and has been held incommunicado ever since, was sentenced in February to five years in prison at a closed trial on charges of spying. **Ali al-Abdullah**, a Syrian journalist, was re-arrested in February on charges relating to an article he wrote while serving a 30-month sentence that ended last June. In a letter to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, **Jeremy Main** and **Kevin McDermott**



Ali al-Abdullah

of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee, wrote in part, "In view of the cosmic changes taking place in the Arab world, it would seem extremely dangerous to continue to persecute Syrians who express their opinions... Mr. President, the persecution of journalists and bloggers in Syria has made your country one of the most notorious violators of freedom of expression in the world."

HAVANA: Pedro Arguelles Morán, an independent journalist who was arrested in the 2003 crackdown on dissidents, was released from prison March 4. He was sentenced in 2003 to 20 years in prison. His release left only one journalist in jail in Cuba, **Albert Santiago Du Bouchet Hernández**, director of the independent news agency Havana Press. He was sentenced in 2009 to three years in prison on charges of "disrespect" and distribution of enemy propaganda.

HONG KONG: Dilnaz Boga, 33, an Indian photojournalist, has won the Agence France-Presse Kate Webb Prize for her reporting in India-administered Kashmir. During a decade covering the troubled region, she spent a year in Srinagar working for the *Kashmir Dispatch* and several international publications and websites. **Eric Wishart**, director of AFP's Asia-Pacific region said, "Covering Kashmir is tough enough for any jour-

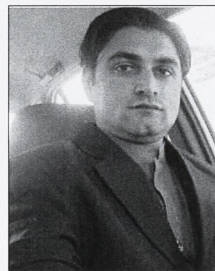


Dilnaz Boga

nalist. As a woman, Dilnaz endured difficult, male-dominated conditions in an extremely hostile environment to report on the human side of the Kashmir situation, particularly the impact on the youth." She will receive a certificate and 3,000 euros (U.S. \$4,200) in cash at a ceremony in Hong Kong. The prize is named for the late **Kate Webb**, a UPI and then AFP correspondent who covered the Vietnam War, Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

JAYAPURA, Papua, Indonesia: Banjir Ambarita, a reporter for the *Jakarta Globe* daily and Vivanews.com, was stabbed several times in the early hours of March 3 by an assailant who fled. Ambarita, 35, was riding on a motorcycle when two men on another motorcycle forced him to brake, and one man stabbed him in the belly and chest. One stab wound penetrated his intestines. Local journalists said they believe the attack is related to a story Ambarita broke three days earlier about a case of sexual abuse of a detainee by three police officers. Jayapura's police chief resigned the day before the reporter was attacked.

KARACHI: There was more trouble for newsmen in Pakistan. Geo TV reporter **Wal Khan Babar** was shot and killed January 13 shortly after covering gang violence in Karachi. On March 21, **Mohammad Rafique Baloch**, vice president of the Karachi Union of Journalists, was picked up by a group of men in the center of Karachi, forced into a vehicle, manhandled by his abductors and released hours later in a remote area of the city. Pakistan was the deadliest country in the world for journalists last year, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.



Wal Khan Babar

KIEV: Former Ukraine President Leonid D. Kuchma was charged March 24 in connection with the 2000 murder of investigative journalist **Georgy Gongadze**.



Leonid D. Kuchma

Kuchma, whose decade as president

was known for corruption and political violence, was suspected of ordering the murder. Kuchma said he would "go through all the tortures of hell" to prove his innocence.

LAHORE, Pakistan: Dunya News TV cameraman **Fayyaz Qamar** was shot in the back March 14 while covering a meeting of the Punjab provincial assembly. Fellow journalists said they believe it was a targeted attack linked to his coverage of criticism of Nawaz, an important local political party. But police said Fayyaz appeared to have been hit by a stray bullet. Fayyaz was shot when he and other journalists went to interview members of the provincial assembly in a tent.

MANAMA, Bahrain: To keep coverage of anti-government demonstrations at a minimum, Bahrain authorities are using indirect censorship on foreign correspondents. A France 24 journalist told Reporters Without Borders, "We arrived at 1 a.m. on 19 February. We were forced to spend the night at the airport and could not get out until the next afternoon. Our transmission equipment was confiscated... We saw a BBC journalist being taken away and his equipment being confiscated... Our equipment was never returned to us. As we could not do live reports, we sent out reports out via the Internet."

NEW YORK: Three members of the OPC board missed a board meeting in March because they were in Egypt covering events there. They were: **Ron Allen**, NBC News; **Adam Ellick**, *The New York Times*; and **Minky Worden**, Human Rights Watch. **Allan Dodds Frank**, OPC president from 2008 to 2010, commented in an e-mail, "It shows that we are still truly a club with members who do roam the world's hotspots."



Sonya Fry, executive director of the OPC, attended a Committee to Protect Journalists luncheon on March 23 that featured the speaker **Ayman Mohyeldin**, Cairo correspondent for Al Jazeera English. Fry commented in an e-mail, "His talk was most informative about the media organizations Al Jazeera English and Al Jazeera Arabic and his observations about the 'revolutions' happening across North Africa and the Middle East."

He did, however, begin with an Egyptian joke. When Mubarak dies he is met at the gates by Nasser and Sadat. Sadat asks him, 'Were you assassinated?' Mubarak replies 'No, I was Facebooked!'"



Eric Hippeau has stepped down as CEO of Huffington Post and joined **Ken Lerer**, a cofounder of Huffington Post, at Lerer Ventures, an investment firm. Hippeau is the son of **Claude Hippeau**, a former UPI executive in South America and New York.

NICOSIA, Cyprus: Unknown attackers fired guns at the open door of *Afrika* newspaper, but no one was hurt. The assailants left a note that next time they would target Turkish-Cypriot journalist **Sener Levent**, editor of the newspaper.

ORAN, Algeria: Police arrested around 100 people including a dozen journalists March 5 half an hour before the start of an anti-government demonstration. Detained for about half an hour were correspondents from *Soir d'Algérie*, *Liberté*, *Le Quotidien d'Oran*, *El Watan*, *L'Express*, *La Tribune* and *La Voix de l'Oranie*.

PESHAWAR, Pakistan: **Zahid Hussein**, a cameraman with Express News TV, was beaten on his head and arms March 4 while filming a crackdown by security forces after a clash between two armed groups. He said when he returned to his office with head bandaged, "I told the police I was a television journalist but they carried on beating me with their rifle butts." His camera was confiscated. When it was returned to him, the footage he had shot had been erased.

PRETORIA: In an open letter March 2, Trevor Manuel, leader of South Africa's National Planning Commission, charged that the behavior of the new government spokesman, **Jimmy Manyi**, was racist in "the worst order." In videotaped comments, Manyi had said there were too many mixed-race South Africans in Western Cape Province, and "They should spread in the rest of the country." He later apologized for the statement.

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Libya Releases Four New York Times Journalists

The Libyan government released four *New York Times* correspondents March 21, six days after they were captured while covering the conflict between government and rebel forces in the eastern city of Ajdabiya. They were released into the custody of Turkish diplomats and crossed safely into Tunisia.

They are **Anthony Shadid**, Beirut bureau chief who has won two Pulitzer Prizes for foreign reporting; **Stephen Farrell**, who was

also kidnapped by the Taliban in 2009; photojournalists **Tyler Hicks** and **Lynsey Addario**. Shadid won the OPC's 2003 Hal Boyle Award for best newspaper or wire service reporting from abroad when he was working for *The Washington Post* with the article "The Soul of Iraq: From War to Resistance and Rebirth." Like many Western journalists, the four had entered the rebel-controlled eastern region of Libya over the Egyptian border without visas. They were detained by forces loyal to Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi in Ajdabiya.

The Times described how they were treated by Libyan soldiers: "One man grabbed her breasts, the beginning of a pattern of disturbing behavior she would experience from her captors over the next 48 hours... One threatened to decapitate Mr. Hicks... The second night they spent in a jail cell with dirty mattresses on the ground, a bottle to urinate in and a jug of water to drink."

Three foreign correspondents who were arrested by forces loyal to Muammar el-Qaddafi March 19 in the eastern Libyan town of Ajdabiya were released four days later after an appeal by Agence France-Presse. After their release they went to Tunisia. They were AFP correspondents **Dave Clark**, 38, and **Roberto Schmidt**, 45; and **Joe Raedle**, 45, an American who works for Getty Images. Their release followed the release of four correspondents from *The New York Times*.

TRIPOLI: **Ali Hassan Al Jaber**, a cameraman working for the Qatar-based satellite TV station Al-Jazeera, was ambushed and fatally shot March 12 when unidentified gunmen opened fire on his car in Libya near the rebel-held city of Benghazi. He was the first journalist killed in Libya's uprising. Another passenger in the car also was killed. In a statement, Reporters Without Borders wrote, "This appalling act is clearly not a random event. It has come at time of increasing violence against journalists by officials loyal to [Libyan ruler] Muammar Qaddafi... Qaddafi's expressions of hate for journalists are entirely and directly responsible for [this] attack."

Jean-Marie Lemaire, a French journalist working the 24-hour TV news program France 24, was wounded by gunshot March 6 while covering clashes between rebels and pro-Qaddafi forces. Two shots hit his camera and a third hit his calf.

Three BBC correspondents were beaten and terrorized by Qaddafi's Libyan security forces during their 21-hour detention in March. They said they were beaten with fists and rifles, hooded and subjected to mock executions. They were arrested while trying to reach the scene of a battle 30 miles from Tripoli. They were **Feras Killani**, **Goktay Koraltan** and **Chris Cobb-Smith**.

Correspondent **Ghaith Abudl-Ahad** of the *Guardian* of London and **Andrei Netto**, correspondent for the Brazilian daily *O Estado de Sao Paulo*, were arrested near Zawiya, 30 kilometers west of Tripoli, March 6 by pro-Qaddafi forces while covering clashes.



Levent Sahinkaya, center, the Turkish ambassador to Libya, at the Turkish Embassy in Tripoli, with the four freed *New York Times* journalists: from left, Stephen Farrell, Tyler Hicks, Lynsey Addario and Anthony Shadid.



Ali Hassan Al Jaber filming the Free Gaza Movement in 2008.

(Continued From Page 7)

RIO DE JANEIRO: Assaultants in a car shot outspoken blogger **Ricardo Gama**, 40, three times in the head, neck and shoulder March 23, and he partially lost sight in one eye. Gama's blog (<http://ricardo-gama.blogspot.com/>) often contains sensational revelations and blistering criticism of Rio de Janeiro politicians and senior police officers. He takes sides in politics and is openly opposed to Rio governor Sérgio Cabral and the city's mayor, Eduardo Paes. He very recently claimed that a "businessman" was involved in cocaine trafficking in Rocinha, the city's biggest *favela* (shanty town).

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador: A tribunal for organized crime sentenced 11 men to prison March 9 for the 2009 murder of **Christian Poveda**, 52, a French photojournalist and filmmaker who had spent three decades documenting gang violence in El Salvador. During 2008, Poveda had worked on a documentary about one of the country's most violent street gangs.

SAN FRANCISCO: **David Rohde**, *The New York Times* correspondent who escaped after seven months of Taliban captivity in Pakistan, was given the first Frank McCulloch Award for Courage in Journalism by the Reynolds School of

Journalism, University of Nevada, on March 3. Rohde was a correspondent in Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Frank McCulloch, former editor and correspondent for *Time* and *Life*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Sacramento Bee* and *San Francisco Examiner*, was driven from his retirement home in Santa Rosa, California to present the award to Rohde. McCulloch, 91, is a graduate of the University of Nevada. He suffers from macular degeneration and a recent heart attack but keeps abreast of world events by having daily newspapers read to him. In recognition of his long career that included his years directing *Time* magazine's Vietnam War coverage, his alma mater presented McCulloch an award for Courage in Journalism.

Tension Escalates for Civilians and Journalists in Yemen

There was trouble for journalists covering the anti-government movement in Yemen where journalists typically enjoy greater freedom than in most other Arab countries. **Jamal Ahmed al-Sharabi** of the independent newspaper *Al-Masdar* was shot and killed March 18 when Yemeni security forces opened fire on protesters.

Men armed with traditional jambiya swords attacked **Saber al-Jabri**, a reporter for a Saudi TV news station, and his cameraman, Kamal al-Samadi. **Adel Omar**, a reporter for *Al-Wahdawi Net* and *Marebpress*, was injured by a stone thrown by government supporters. **Mohammed al-Jaradi**, a reporter for the independent newspaper *Al-Ahura*, was attacked by government supporters, and one of his hands was broken.

The house of **Nasser Abdullah Aldibibi**, editor of the newspaper *Al-Hurra*, was ransacked and torched. **Mohammed al-Jaradi** of the newspaper *Al Ahali* said he was walking to his office from an anti-government demonstration when three men approached him; accused him of photographing women, inappropriate in Yemen; and beaten, thrown to the ground and stabbed in the arm with a jambiya dagger.

Four foreign journalists, one of them a winner of an OPC Foundation scholarship, were arrested at 7:30 a.m. March 14 in the apartment they shared on charges of "residing illegally in Yemen" and deported from the country. They had been living and working in Yemen for several years and were known to authorities including the Information Ministry. They were two British, **Oliver Holmes**, a stringer for *The Wall Street Journal* and *Time*; and **Portia Walker**, a *Washington Post* stringer; and Americans **Haley Sweetland Edwards**, who writes for the *Los Angeles Times* and AOL News, and **Joshua Maricich**, who writes for several publications including the *Yemen Times*. Edwards won the OPC's Irene Corbally Kuhn scholarship in 2009 when she was a student at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Her winning essay dealt with the question of how new media technologies can "provide the world's people with more voice not more violence." For several weeks before their arrests, the four correspondents were covering protests calling for the removal of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who has ruled since 1979.



From left to right: Joshua Maricich, Haley Sweetland Edwards, Oliver Holmes and Portia Walker.

TARAPOTO, Peru: Three assailants on motorcycles hurled three firebombs into the offices of the daily *Voces* March 5, causing a fire that was quickly extinguished. No one was hurt, but the building sustained material damage. A week earlier, **Lenin Quevedo**, editorial director of the paper that has been publishing articles on the alleged misconduct of a national congressional candidate, received a series of anonymous intimidating text messages. One said, "You are putting the rope around your neck... Stay away from politics."

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras: Reporters Without Borders reported in March on what it called an "alarming increase in threats and violence against journalists in Honduras." The organization reported in a statement, "The first in the latest spate of cases was the 13 March shooting of **Franklin Meléndez**, the head of the community radio station La Voz de Zacate Grande. The police try to hush up the shooting. According to the Committee for Free Expression, the alleged assailant, Porfirio Medina, publicly threatened one of the station's correspondents, **Ethel Correa**, in the hours following the attack, saying she would be 'the next to die.'... The situation is hardly any better for national media. **Lidieth Díaz**, 36, a reporter with Choluteca - Canal 36, and her husband, **David Romero**, the head of Radio Globo, were attacked by riot police while covering a protest by teachers in Tegucigalpa on 21 March. Díaz tried to negotiate with the police but they responded by setting off a teargas grenade right in

front of her. Police fired rubber bullets at Radio Gualcho director **Sandra Maribel Sánchez** and Globo TV cameraman **Uriel Rodríguez** during the same demonstration, hitting Rodríguez in the leg. The police also tried to snatch Sánchez's camera."

TOKYO: The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan reports that none of its members or staff were killed or injured by the earthquake and tsunamis. The Club's library sustained some damage, Acting General Manager **Akira Nakamura** wrote in an e-mail to this column.



Sam Jameson, a longtime bureau chief and correspondent in Japan for the *Chicago Tribune* and then the *Los Angeles Times* and who has lived in Tokyo since 1962, sent this message to the "People" correspondent two days after the earthquake and tsunamis: "I was exiting a subway station when the first 'bang' came. It was strong enough to make a 3-meter-wide



Sam Jameson

solid steel round pillar support pole in the first underground level start revolving in a circle. I wanted out — now! — when I saw that. Amazing, the exit escalators to the surface were still running when I got to them, and I rode easily to the ground level. Outside were dozens of people who apparently had gone out of buildings that had been strongly shaken but not damaged. Within an hour, all the railways and subways of Tokyo had stopped operating, and the government urged commuters not to try to walk home for fear of running into new trouble that could not be foreseen and, instead, spend the night in their workplaces. The worst hit areas are places with very few foreigners.

"The disaster could turn a misfortune into a fortune, as an old proverb says, by forcing a rebuilding of entire villages and towns over a huge area of Japan at an unprecedented cost that would have the effect of a huge 'stimulus program' that would drag the stagnant economy out of its 21st year of stagnation and inflation."

TUAI, Indonesia: The presiding judge in the trial of three men charged in the 2010 murder of Sun TV cameraman **Ridwan Salamun** has ruled that the prosecution failed to prove its case and ordered them freed. Salamun was hacked to death by a group of Tuai villagers who did not welcome his attempts to cover a clash with residents of a neighboring village.

URUMQI, Xinjiang, China: The secret sentencing of a Uighur website editor became known in March, eight months after he was tried along with other journalists and dissidents charged in the 2009 unrest in northwestern Xinjiang province. **Tursunjan Hezim**, editor of the Uighur website Bilik, was sentenced to seven years in prison in a trial closed to observers. At least four other Uighur web managers received prison terms for posting articles and discussions about the violence.

VIENNA: **Alison Bethel McKenzie**, a reporter and editor in Boston, Detroit and Washington for more than 25 years, is the new director of the Vienna-based International Press Institute (IPI) after serving as acting director since August 2010. She joined the IPI as deputy director in 2009 after spending a year in Accra, Ghana as a Knight International Journalism Fellow, helping Ghanaian journalists improve their reporting skills. Earlier McKenzie was senior assistant city editor at the *Boston Globe*, features editor and Washington bureau chief for *The Detroit News*, executive editor of the *Legal Times* in Washington and managing editor of the *Nassau Guardian* in the Bahamas.



Alison Bethel McKenzie

WASHINGTON: **Jay Carney**, 45, the new White House press secretary, was a *Time* magazine correspondent in Moscow from 1990 to 1993 before becoming *Time's* White House correspondent in 1993.

WELLINGTON: **Peter Isaac**, president of the National Press Club of New Zealand, sent this e-mail to the OPC in February after attending the annual gener-

al meeting of the International Association of Press Clubs in Canberra: "There were delegates from clubs in China, United Kingdom, Dubai, Austria, Switzerland, and Indonesia there. I joined in and cited the OPC of New York and the Foreign Correspondent Club of Hong Kong and the London Press Club as those with which we had a regular relationship. Warming to my theme I cited the "People" [column in the *OPC Bulletin*] as the world's foremost chronicle of the comings and goings in the world media."



In January, La Voz de los de Abajo sent a human rights delegation to Honduras, its fourth since the coup d'état in 2009.

ZACATE GRANDE, Honduras: **Franklin Meléndez**, president of the board that oversees the community radio station La Voz de Zacate Grande, was shot in the leg March 13 by two critics of the station's editorial policies. Meléndez was with two of the station's reporters and the representative of an international human rights observation mission when two men accosted him and criticized his support of peasant groups in a land dispute with a wealthy biofuel manufacturer. One man pulled out a gun and shot him. Reporters Without Borders said police have taken no action in the shooting although identity of the assailants is known, and police called the station and asked it "not to make a fuss."

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Bernard Estrade, 65, an Agence France-Presse correspondent who covered wars, conflicts and revolutions around the world, died in Paris March 16 following a long illness. Estrade joined the French news agency in 1970 and began his career as a foreign correspondent in Beirut in 1973. He was one of the few Western correspondents still in Baghdad when U.S. cruise missiles pounded the Iraqi capital at

(Continued on Page 10)

Reciprocal Club Benefits for Members of the OPC of America

by Leah Spiro

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia is a member of the International Association of Press Clubs (IAPC). This means that OPC members enjoy the benefits of being reciprocal members. Here is a Q&A with current FCCSA president, **Heather Timmons** who is based in New Delhi, India for *The New York Times*. Her husband is **Paul Beckett**, who is the South Asia Bureau Chief for *The Wall Street Journal*.

Q: If an OPC member travels to a city where there is a reciprocal club, what benefits does the OPC member enjoy?

A: Any card carrying member of an IAPC can come to events and have refreshments at the club. We have free wi-fi that works most of the time, as well as a computer with internet access that they are welcome to use.

Q: What is the address and website?

A: The Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia is located at AB-19, Mathura Road, New Delhi, 110 001 and website is www.fccsouthasia.net.

Q: Who is the club manager?

A: Kiran Kapur

Q: Can you describe the clubhouse?

A: It is centrally located in a Delhi government bungalow with a lovely large lawn, tented backyard and outdoor tandoor oven for cooking kebabs and fresh breads. The building is basic and

a bit rundown (but we love it anyway).

Q: How many members are there?

A: Approximately 500, but this includes a number of people who spend most of their time in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Q: Can you characterize the membership?

A: Reporters and photographers who work for foreign publications, television stations and newswires from around the world, some local journalists and a smattering of PR people, government officials and corporate executives.

Q: What are the annual club events?

A: A Christmas party, a Diwali party and a management committee party in the spring.

Q: What role does it serve in the India/New Delhi journalism spectrum?

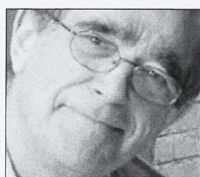
A: It is a place for foreign correspondents who often spend a lot of their time on the road to meet and reconnect, particularly on Thursday and Friday nights. We also have regular press conferences with government officials and other newsmakers, book launch parties, and the occasional movie or karaoke night. Members can rent out part of the club for meetings or private parties.

Q: Are there any highlights you'd like to share?

A: We have had some great events and speakers from Arundhati Roy to Tom Friedman.

People: *Continued From Page 9*

the start of the 1990 to 1991 Gulf War. He witnessed the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 when he was Moscow



bureau chief and covered the fall of Suharto in Indonesia in 1998. He also reported from Hanoi, Tehran and Nairobi. Estrade was the husband of OPC member **Kate Hunt** who is the U.N. representative of Care International. Hunt was an OPC Board member and Head Judge of the OPC Awards judging from 2006 to 2008. Kate wrote to CPJ Executive Director Joel Simon: "The greatest -- albeit heartbreaking -- honor was to be with him at the very end, holding his hand, and reassuring him that his brilliance, courage, and unflinching standards as a journalist -- especially as a war reporter -- would be carried forth by a younger generation."



Gene Kramer, 83, who reported from Asia and Europe during 47 years as an AP correspondent, died March 9 after deteriorating health. After joining AP in 1950 in San Francisco where he wrote about the Korean War, he was transferred to Tokyo in 1954, later to New Delhi where he spent seven years, and then to Warsaw in 1966. He spent his last 13 years with AP in Washington, retiring in 1997. Speaking English, Japanese, German and Polish, Kramer reported from Quemoy when the Nationalist Chinese island was shelled by Communist China's shore artillery; the student-led revolt in Seoul that led to the end of Syngman Rhee's rule of South Korea; and a Catholic celebration in Gdansk, Poland during which security men arrested him because they thought he was some sort of informant.

Kramer was afflicted with narcolepsy, a condition that causes excessive drowsiness, and he often dozed off during news conferences. He was obsessed by trains, memorizing train schedules in the coun-

tries where he worked or visited. Kramer once challenged friends to a race by train from Tokyo to Osaka. They boarded the same train in Tokyo, but Kramer, by skillfully changing trains at scheduled stops, arrived first in Osaka. He was a member of the Ski Club of International Journalists and skied well into his 70s.

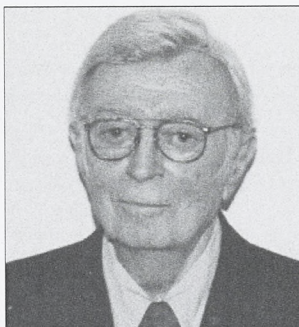


Arnost Lustig, 84, a Czech editor and reporter, died in Prague February 26. Drawing on his own experiences as a teenage Jew imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps, Lustig wrote more than 20 novels about young people who survived the World War II Holocaust. After the war, he became a magazine editor, script writer and radio reporter, and he covered the Arab-Israeli war in 1948. A series of his books were published in the United States under the title *Children of the Holocaust*.

Staunch OPC and Free Press Supporter Norman Schorr Dies at 91

by Al Kaff

Norman Schorr, 91, a member of the OPC for 56 years and a board member of the OPC Foundation, died in his Manhattan apartment on East 64th Street March 25 after a long battle against cancer. For many years, Norman was the power behind the OPC's Freedom of the Press Committee, a regular at nearly all OPC events until his final illness and a dedicated supporter of every OPC project.



Norm joined the OPC in 1954. Over the years he was club treasurer, first vice president, chairman of the Awards Committee, co-chair of the Freedom of the Press Committee and board member of the OPC Foundation. Norm was a founding member of Amnesty International, and he was honored with the First Amendment Award from the Society of Professional Journalists in New York. A newsman with United Press and the *Detroit Free Press* before World War II, Norm was a U.S. Army press officer in the Philippines during the war. After the war he worked in public relations, first with Westinghouse and since 1974 president of his own firm, Schorr and Howard Company later to become Schorr, Howard & Megill.

Norm's funeral service was held on Sunday March 27 at the Society for the Advancement of Judaism Synagogue on West 86 Street. Attending were OPC past Presidents **John Corporon**, **Allan Dodds Frank**, **Bill Holstein** and **Larry Martz**; members of the Freedom of the Press Committee, including **Kevin McDermott**, who spoke about Norman being the inspiration and the driving force of the work of the committee, **Jacqueline Albert-Simon**, **David Alpern**, **Bill Collins** and **Jeremy Main**; from the OPC office **Boots Duque** and **Sonya Fry**; and **Roz Massow**, an OPC member and good friend of the Schorrs. Many people spoke about Norman in his various roles in the Synagogue community, his business life and his devotion to the Overseas Press Club. But the most heartfelt and insightful talks were by his three daughters, **Susan**, **Betsy** and **Marjorie** who told stories of a quirky, fun, party-loving father.

Sonya Fry, OPC executive director, sent the report on the funeral. She recalled, "One of my best memories of Norman is going to his apartment to drop off some papers and it was cocktail time. He was sitting in the living room with **Thelma**, his devoted wife, and some friends and he seemed to be thoroughly enjoying his life. Norman could be a taskmaster, but he always had a twinkle in his eye and you had to admire his fierce devotion to the cause of press freedom."

Norm's death generated comments from OPC members and executives, friends and colleagues. **Jane Reilly**, executive director of the OPC Foundation, "Norman was the power behind the Freedom of the Press Committee at the OPC for many years, a regular at the luncheons, and a great believer in our cause." **Bob Dowling**, "His unwavering dedication to FOP set an example that will live on." **Jacqueline Albert Simon**, "Norman inspired so many of us. He is missed." **Linda Goetz Holmes**, "I sent a note to Norm and Thelma [Norm's wife] last week writing that when-

Eulogy Delivered at Schorr's Funeral on March 27 by Kevin McDermott (excerpted)

It was 15 years ago when I had just been elected to my first term on the Overseas Press Club's board of directors, that I first met Norm. I was looking for a way to make a contribution and Larry Martz, suggested I meet Norman. After a long lunch he had me fully converted. Norman was the sort of man you are glad to meet in life, practical and smart and honorable.

Until this last year or so when illness and injury began to overtake him, Norman's concern for journalists in jeopardy never stopped...Five or six years ago I was in Washington for a meeting of the Inter American Press Association and chatted with a board member who was amazed at what OPC's press freedom committee accomplished with volunteers. I said it was entirely due to the energies and commitment of people like Norman and Larry and Jeremy, the current co-chairs of the committee.

Press freedom was the focus of Norman's energy. But on or off the OPC's board of governors Norman was stalwart in support of the organization. OPC is coming up on its 75th birthday and Norman and his wife Thelma have been members for better than three quarters of that time. The emails I've exchanged with past and present board members these past few days are evidence of someone who left his mark on what he considered an essential work — not just to the business of covering the news but to the non-negotiable right of everyone everywhere to think and speak as they please.

Norm seemed to me impelled in his pursuit of this good work by several motives at once, and first of all by intellectual curiosity. The problems were interestingly knotty, especially in the ways they crossed and recrossed international borders. But it was also implicitly a moral obligation Norman felt. Sticking up for some reporter he would never meet was a mitzvah. The wish to do good in the world was central to Norman in his decades of working for press freedom. There are people in remote parts of the Earth this morning who don't know Norman's name nor that he stood up for them when they were in a bad spot. I did know him, and it was a blessing to me. I'll miss him, and I'll certainly never forget him.

ever I hear of a journalist being freed somewhere in the world, I think of Norm. For me, that is his legacy."

Larry Martz, "For 18 years, I had the privilege and pleasure of working with Norman on the Freedom of the Press Committee. Writing letters to protest abuses around the world is a job that burns people out, including me. But Norman never flagged in his conviction that tyrants could be shown the evil of their ways, or at the least could be persuaded that we were watching what they did and telling the world about it. His dedication and energy kept us all going, and I firmly believe were instrumental in freeing at least some jailed journalists and keeping press freedom alive — not just as a cause, but as a reality. Norman can't be replaced, but he will be remembered."

Roy Rowan, "I don't believe the OPC would be what it is today without Norman. He will be remembered not only by members of the club but by every president or prime minister who received one of his letters of protest, and by every jailed journalist who won freedom from them."

There were many death notices from friends and colleagues published in *The New York Times*. One read: "He will be remembered for his compassion, dry wit, intelligence, strength, integrity and passionate commitment to doing right."

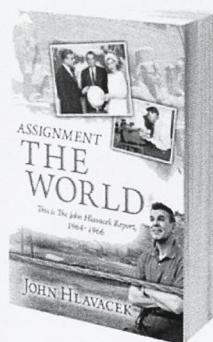
New Books

GLOBAL

IN NEBRASKA HE WAS CALLED a Foreign Correspondent in Residence. John Hlavacek had spent 13 years in China and India as a United Press correspondent and five years as a freelance photojournalist with NBC and *Time/Life*. Then in 1964 he became a "foreign correspondent in residence" at KMTV, an Omaha television station. In March, Hlavacek celebrated his 93rd birthday and the publication of his ninth book, *Assignment: The World* [Omaha: Hlucky Books].

In his latest book, he writes about his first two years at KMTV that he summarized for this column: "I was nervous learning to be an 'actor', reading a teleprompter and generally being comfortable on a television set. I was in my mid-forties, with a wife and five children and I wasn't sure how long I would last. My new colleagues were very helpful to this new rookie. The morning anchor was **Tom Browkaw**. He, at the time, was having trouble with the letter 'l'. He introduced me to his speech professor, Walter Beaupre, the head of the department at Omaha University. For several months I worked with Beaupre. 1964 was a

political year and I interviewed on my program Eugene McCarthy of Wisconsin, George Romney of Michigan and Bill Miller, the congressman from New York who was Barry 'Goldwater's vice presidential candidate. I also interviewed the likes of Billy Graham and several foreign visitors to Omaha. After the first year, when I was somewhat adequate, the general manager, Owen Sadler, handed me a proposal to join a group of journalists on a press tour to Moscow. After reading the proposal and the cost, I suggested that for that amount of money, I could do more for the station. I proposed a trip to the Middle and Far East, noting that I had friends in United Press and NBC who would help me. And I asked to take along my wife, **Pegge Parker**, a journalist who was a better writer than I and already had reporting experience in Washington, Alaska and China [Pegge died in 2008]. So, in April of 1965, we took off on a reporting tour to Portugal, Egypt, Israel, Pakistan, India, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Taipei."



ASIA

THIS BOOK HAS BEEN CALLED a young man's rite of passage and a first-hand account of events in Asia's past. In 1954, **Marvin Farkas**, then 26, arrived in Hong Kong from the United States aboard the cargo ship *Eastern Saga* with \$200 in his pocket and a camera from his father's New York studio. Ever since he has photographed the history of Asia for newsreels and television. Now 83, Farkas writes about his career in his memoir *Eastern Saga* [Hong Kong: Make-Do Publishing]. Farkas covered the expulsion of the Dutch from Indonesia; Malaysian independence; wars in Vietnam and Cambodia and the Indo/Pakistani conflict; earthquakes in Bali and floods in Pakistan; and scores of other events. He interviewed Asian leaders including Zhou Enlai, Sukarno and Ali Bhutto; and legendary Indian filmmaker Satyajit Ray. One reviewer wrote, "Above all though, this is a charming account of a now lost era. [Farkas] gained the reputation as the man who always got his story."



— by Al Kaff

Coming Up. . .

OPC Awards Dinner
Mandarin Oriental Hotel
Reception 6 p.m.
Dinner 7 p.m.
Thursday, April 28

Bill Holstein Book Night
The Next American Economy
Tuesday, May 17

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA